



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

A

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/718,884	11/20/2003	Atsushi Miyawaki	03702/LH	8922
1933	7590	02/28/2006	EXAMINER	
FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN & CHICK, PC				ROBINSON, MARK A
220 Fifth Avenue				ART UNIT
16TH Floor				PAPER NUMBER
NEW YORK, NY 10001-7708				2872

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/718,884	MIYAWAKI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mark A. Robinson	2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6,11-17 and 19-34 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-17 and 25-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-6,11-14,19-24 and 29-34 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6,11-14,19-24 and 29-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zeng (US 6898458) in view of Hirano (JP 10-090608).

Regarding claims 1 and 2, as discussed previously, Zeng discloses an illumination apparatus including a white light source(180), beam splitting means(184), wavelength selective means having first(150) and second(162) members on respective optical paths, and beam synthesizing means(174). Regarding claims 33 and 34, Zeng also includes optical elements for introducing light to a specimen and image pickup elements and processing means (e.g. see abstract, fig. 2,4,etc.).

Zeng does not disclose a plurality of light amount adjusting members provided on the respective optical paths for

adjusting intensities of the beams of irradiation light. However, such is shown by Hirano. Note in Hirano either shutters 23A and 23B or "dimming" filters 24A and 24B on the respective optical paths(A,B), each of which adjusts or attenuates the intensities of the light beams (see attached translation of Hirano). It would have been obvious to the ordinarily skilled artisan at the time of invention to include the light amount adjusting members of Hirano in Zeng's system in order to enable control of the amount of light reaching the specimen as taught by Hirano.

Regarding claims 3-6,23 and 24, Zeng in view of Hirano discloses the limitations of these claims as discussed above and further discloses an objective lens (inherent in the disclosed microscope system--see Zeng abstract). Zeng does not show a mirror for introducing the synthesized beam in a direction to the specimen and transmitting light from the specimen. However, this arrangement is very common and an example is shown by Hirano (note semi-transmissive mirror 41). It would have been obvious to the ordinarily skilled artisan at the time of invention to include Hirano's mirror arrangement with Zeng's system as a means to selectively reflect and transmit light to and from the specimen.

Regarding claims 11-14, the light amount adjusting members of Zeng in view of Hirano are able to be moved in and out of their respective optical path (e.g. they can be removed from the system), thus satisfying the further limitations of these claims.

Regarding claims 19-22, Zeng further shows wavelength distribution monitoring means in figs. 2,8,etc.

Regarding claims 29-32, Zeng shows multiple wavelength selective means movable in and out of the optical path in figs. 9,18,19,etc.

Conclusion

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will

Art Unit: 2872

expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Robinson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2319.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn, can be reached at (571) 272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2800.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on

Application/Control Number: 10/718,884
Art Unit: 2872

Page 6

access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MR

2/23/06



MARK A. ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER